Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 ARA-10 /109 R

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, ID

SUBJECT: INDONESIAN LNG FOR CALIFORNIA

- 1. FPC DOWN TO ONE COMMISSIONER NOW, BUT TWO NOMINEES FOR APPOINTMENT TO FPC, AND ULTIMATELY TO NEW FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION (FERC) WHICH IS PROPOSED IN ENERGY LEGISLATION, HAVE BEGUN TO MOVE THROUGH CONFIRMATION PROCESS. LIKELY, THEREFORE, THAT COMMISSION WILL HAVE QUORUM SOON AFTER PACIFIC LIGHTING CASE IS PRESENTED TO IT IN SEPTEMBER. NEW LEGISLATION ALSO MANDATES THAT AFTER PASSAGE OF ENERGY ACT ALL PENDING CASES BEFORE FPC BE TREATED BY FERC UNDER PRESENT FPC RULES; THEY WOULD NOT HAVE TO BE RE-HEARD UNDER NEW PROCEDURES WHICH NEW COMMISSION MIGHT DECIDE TO ADOPT.
- 2. ACCORDING NEW YORK TIMES AUG 5, MEXICAN GOVT HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RECENTLY SIGNED LETTER OF INTENT TO SIX-COMPANY CONSORTIUM, SIGNIFYING ITS READINESS TO START UP DELIVERIES THIS YEAR AT 50 MILLION CUBIC FEET PER DAY RATE AND TO REACH LEVEL OF TWO BILLION CFD BY 1979. EL PASO NATURAL GAS CO, WHICH SUPPLIES ABOUT 70 PERCENT OF GAS WHICH SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS NOW PROCURES, IS CONSORTIUM MEMBER. GAS COMPANIES

WOULD BE COMMITTED TO BUY FOR SIX YEARS AND WOULD HAVE OPTION TO BUY FOR ADDITIONAL SIX YEARS. (THIS ARRANGEMENT PROBABLY GEARED TO MEXICAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CYCLE). PRICE WOULD APPARENTLY BE TIED TO PRICE OF NO. 2 LIGHT FUEL OIL LANDED NEW YORK (PERHAPS 2 DOLS AND 50 CENTS PER THOUSAND CUBIC FEET). A FORMAL AGREEMENT IS EXPECTED TO BE SIGNED BETWEEN GOM AND CONSORTIUM WITHIN NEXT FEW MONTHS. SOCAL GAS AND PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC SHARES OF ANY MEXICAN GAS REACHING US WOULD PROBABLY BE ABOUT ONE EIGHTH EACH. CHRISTOPHER

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^{***} Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

^{***} Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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